

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 12776 031157Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SCA-01 SSO-00 SS-15
DHA-02 INR-07 PRS-01 /062 W
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P 031142Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6767
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 12776

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINS, CT, UK
SUBJECT: DETENTION OF WESTERN JOURNALIST

REF: BANGUI 1616 (NOTAL)

1. PER REFTEL, WE HAVE SHARED WITH FCO PERTINENT PORTIONS OF PARAS 1, 8, 9, 10, AND 11 OF BANGUI 1614. FCO WEST AFRICAN DEPARTMENT WAS PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL FOR AMBASSADOR QUANTON'S REFTEL SUGGESTIONS, WHICH WILL BE INCORPORATED IN RECOMMENDATIONS BEING PREPARED FOR MINISTERIAL APPROVAL. HMG IS GETTING READY TO CRANK UP ITS PRESSURE ON CAE, AND NEXT STEPS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION INCLUDE SUMMONING CAE AMBASSADOR TO LONDON AND SENDING OF A MESSAGE FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY TO HIS CAE HOMOLOGUE. GIVEN EMPEROR'S STYLE, WE INFORMALLY SUGGESTED THAT FCO MAY WISH CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE QUEEN TO BOKASSA; HMG NATURALLY PREFERS NOT TO INVOLVE THE PALACE IN AFFAIRS OF THIS TYPE EXCEPT AS A LAST RESORT, BUT THEY WILL KEEP POSSIBILITY OF A ROYAL MESSAGE IN MIND.

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2. FCO HAS PROMISED TO KEEP US ADVISED OF STEPS TAKEN, WHICH WE SHALL CONTINUE TO REPORT.

3. WE HAVE BRIEFED AP BUREAU CHIEF MASON ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS, AND HE, IN TURN, HAS INFORMED GOLDSMITH'S WIFE.

4. MASON TOLD US THAT AT INSTIGATION OF MRS. GOLDSMITH, AP SPONSORED A MESSAGE TO THE EMPEROR FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS INSTITUTE URGING GOLDSMITH'S RELEASE. IPI SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM BANGUI: QUOTE. VOUS DEVRIEZ UN JOUR PAYER LES CONSEQUENCES DE

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VOTRE SOI DISANT PRESSE EN EFFET SI VOUS AVEZ SEME LA LIBERTE DE LA PRESSE DANS VOTRE PAYS ET DANS LE MONDE ENTIER EN TOUT CAS CELA NE L'EST PAS EN CE QUI CONCERNE LE TERRITOIRE DE L'EMPIRE CENTRAFRICAIN STOP ET LE GOUVERNEMENT DE L'EMPIRE CENTRAFRICAIN N'A AUCUN ORDRE A RECEVOIR DE QUI QUE CE SOIT STOP C'EST POURQUOI SI VOUS VOUS SENTEZ LE PLUS FORT DE TOUS LES HOMMES VOUS DEVEZ VENIR LIBERER MONSIEUR MICHAEL GOLDSMITH VOUS MEME STOP IMAGINEZ DONC DE QUELLE FACON NOUS ATTENDONS DE VOUS ACCUEILLIR. SA MAJESTE IMPERIALE BOKASSA 1ER EMPEREUR DE CENTRAFRIUUE. UNQUOTE. (IN GIVING US THIS TELEGRAM, WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN FURNISHED TO FCO, MASON REQUESTED THAT ITS CONTENTS AS WELL AS USG/HMG KNOWLEDGE OF ITS EXISTENCE BE VERY CLOSELY HELD.) AP WAS STUNNED BY BOTH THE TENOR AND THE "GUTTER LANGUAGE" OF THE TELEGRAM. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY COMMENTS EMBASSY BANGUI WOULD CARE TO HAZARD ON THE LEVEL OF THE GCAE AT WHICH SUCH A MESSAGE MIGHT HAVE ORIGINATED.

5. TWO-PAGE CENTER SPREAD BY "DAILY MAIL" CORRESPONDENT
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JOHN EDWARDS AND PHOTOGRAPHER MONTY FRESCO APPEARED IN AUGUST 1ST ISSUE OF "DAILY MAIL" UNDER HEADLINE, "WHEN THE BLACK NAPOLEON DEMANDS DIAMONDS NO-ONE DARE REFUSE." ARTICLE, WHICH DOES NOT MENTION RANDALL/GOLDSMITH DETENTIONS, CONCENTRATES ON PREPARATIONS FOR CORONATION AND INCLUDES EXTENSIVE ACCOUNT OF EDWARDS' AUDIENCE WITH EMPEROR. POUCHING COPY TO BANGUI.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, LOBBYING, JOURNALISTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON12776
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770277-1331
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708102/aaaadipl.tel
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Subject: DETENTION OF WESTERN JOURNALIST
TAGS: PINS, CT, UK, (GOLDSMITH)
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Type: TE
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